

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS LISTING

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the following listing, which listing replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for recovering at least one metal value from a metal-bearing material, comprising the steps of:

a) pressure leaching a metal-bearing material with a liquid to yield a residue and a metal-bearing solution;

b) adjusting the pH of said metal-bearing solution using chemical pH adjustment to form a pH-adjusted metal-bearing solution;

c) diluting said pH-adjusted metal-bearing solution with a diluting solution to form a diluted metal-bearing solution, wherein a ratio of said metal-bearing solution to said diluting solution is less than 1:10 and the pH of said diluted metal-bearing solution is less than about 2.2; and

e) d) solvent extracting at least one metal value from said diluted metal-bearing solution.

2. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein in said diluting step, the ratio by volume of said metal-bearing solution to said diluting solution ranges from about 1:4 to about 1:8.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 [2], further comprising providing an extraction reagent for use in said step of solvent extracting said at least one metal value from said diluted metal-bearing solution.

4. (Currently amended) The process of claim 3, wherein said step of providing an extraction reagent comprises providing at least one of an aldoxime, a modified aldoxime, and an aldoxime/ketoxime mixture.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1[2], wherein said pressure leaching step comprises high temperature pressure leaching at a temperature from about 210°C to about 235°C.

7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1[2], wherein said pressure leaching step is at superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of about 225°C in an oxygen-containing atmosphere.

8. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1[2], further comprising the step of comminuting said metal-bearing material prior to the step of pressure leaching.

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 8, wherein said comminuting step comprises comminuting said metal-bearing material to a P80 of less than about 75 microns.

10. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1[2], further comprising the step of recovering any precious metals contained in said pressure leaching residue.

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Cancelled)

13. – 18. (Withdrawn)

19. (New) A process for recovering at least one metal value from a metal-bearing material, comprising the steps of:

a) pressure leaching a metal-bearing material with a liquid to yield a residue and a metal-bearing solution;

b) adjusting the pH of said metal-bearing solution, without use of a diluting solution, in a chemical pH adjustment step, such that the pH of said metal-bearing solution is less than about 2.2 prior to entering the solvent extraction step;

c) solvent extracting at least one metal value from said diluted metal-bearing solution.